

**THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of resolving problems in an application program that runs on an Information Technology (IT) infrastructure that includes a plurality of IT components, comprising:
  - 5 generating a symptom that identifies a problem in the application program; identifying selected IT components in the IT infrastructure that may cause the problem in the application program, based on the symptom; obtaining a respective situation for a respective selected IT component, the respective situation being one of a set of component-independent predefined situation categories that is associated with the respective selected IT component, so as to provide status of the selected IT components in a common situation format that includes the associated one of the component-independent predefined situation categories; and
  - 10 analyzing the respective situations that are obtained to identify at least one problem in the selected IT components that may cause the problem in the application program.
2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the analyzing is followed by automatically identifying corrective action in the IT infrastructure based on the at least one problem in the selected IT components.
- 20 3. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the generating comprises generating a symptom that identifies a problem in the application program based on an error log for the application program.
- 25 4. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the analyzing comprises: determining correlations between the respective situations that are obtained; and identifying the at least one problem in the selected IT components based on sufficiently correlated ones of the respective situations.
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5. A method according to Claim 4 wherein the determining comprises time correlating and/or transaction correlating the respective situations that are obtained.

5 6. A method according to Claim 4 wherein the identifying the at least one problem comprises evaluating the sufficiently correlated ones of the respective situations so as to select one of the predefined situation categories based on the sufficiently correlated ones of the respective situations.

10 7. A method according to Claim 6 wherein the identifying the at least one problem is followed by generating a common situation format representation of the status of the application program based on the one of the predefined situation categories that was selected based on the sufficiently correlated ones of the respective situations.

15 8. A method according to Claim 2 wherein the automatically identifying comprises generating a common situation format representation of the corrective action that is identified.

20 9. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the selected IT components comprise IT components that are used when running the application program on the IT infrastructure.

10. A method of resolving problems in an application program that runs 25 on an Information Technology (IT) infrastructure that includes a plurality of IT components, comprising:

obtaining respective ones of a set of component-independent predefined status categories that are associated with respective selected ones of the IT components, so as to provide status of the respective selected ones of the IT  
30 components in a common, component-independent format; and  
analyzing the respective status categories that are obtained to identify at

least one problem in the selected ones of the IT components that may cause the problem in the application program.

11. A method according to Claim 10 wherein the analyzing is followed  
5 by automatically identifying corrective action in the IT infrastructure based on the at least one problem in the selected ones of the IT components.

12. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the analyzing comprises:  
determining correlations between the respective status categories that are  
10 obtained; and  
identifying the at least one problem in the selected ones of the IT components based on sufficiently correlated ones of the respective status categories.

15 13. A method according to Claim 10 wherein the selected ones of the IT components comprise IT components that are used when running the application program on the IT infrastructure.

14. A system for resolving problems in an application program that runs  
20 on an Information Technology (IT) infrastructure that includes a plurality of IT components, the system comprising:  
a problem resolver that is configured to identify selected IT components in the IT infrastructure that may cause an identified problem in the application program, to obtain a respective situation for a respective selected IT component,  
25 the respective situation being one of a set of component-independent predefined situation categories that is associated with the respective selected IT component, so as to provide status of the selected IT components in a common situation format that includes the associated one of the component-independent predefined situation categories, and to analyze the respective situations that are obtained to identify at  
30 least one problem in the selected IT components that may cause the problem in the application program.

15. A system according to Claim 14 wherein the problem resolver is further configured to automatically identify corrective action in the IT infrastructure based on the at least one problem in the selected IT components.

5        16. A system according to Claim 14 wherein the problem resolver is configured to analyze the respective situations that are obtained by determining correlations between the respective situations that are obtained and identifying the at least one problem in the selected IT components based on sufficiently correlated ones of the respective situations.

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17. A system according to Claim 16 wherein the problem resolver is configured to identify the at least one problem by evaluating the sufficiently correlated ones of the respective situations so as to select one of the predefined situation categories based on the sufficiently correlated ones of the respective situations.

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18. A system according to Claim 17 wherein the problem resolver is further configured to generate a common situation format representation of the status of the application program based on the one of the predefined situation categories that was selected based on the sufficiently correlated ones of the respective situations.

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19. A computer program product for resolving problems in an application program that runs on an Information Technology (IT) infrastructure that includes a plurality of IT components, the computer program product comprising a computer usable storage medium having computer-readable program code embodied in the medium, the computer-readable program code comprising:

25        computer-readable program code that is configured to obtain respective ones of a set of component-independent predefined status categories that are associated with respective selected ones of the IT components, so as to provide

30        status of the respective selected ones of the IT components in a common,

component-independent format; and  
computer-readable program code that is configured to analyze the  
respective status categories that are obtained to identify at least one problem in the  
selected ones of the IT components that may cause the problem in the application  
5 program.

20. A computer program product according to Claim 19 wherein the  
computer-readable program code that is configured to analyze comprises:  
computer-readable program code that is configured to determine  
10 correlations between the respective status categories that are obtained; and  
computer-readable program code that is configured to identify the at least  
one problem in the selected ones of the IT components based on sufficiently  
correlated ones of the respective status categories.